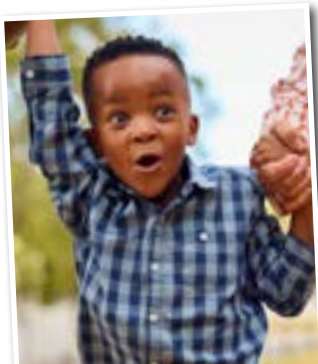
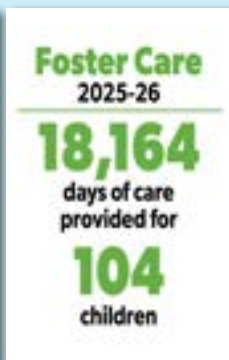
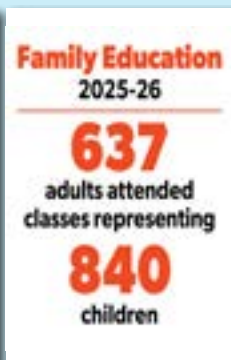
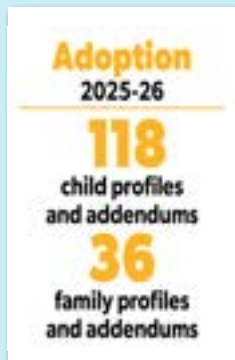




Impact Highlights

While there are routines and procedures in all we do in children and family services, there is rarely a "typical" day. Instead, there is a constant flow of events and, unfortunately, crises to address. The support COBYS receives makes it possible for the staff to deal with crises and every day duties with more time, more compassion and more empathy than could be afforded with the allotted government funding for services. The bottom line is that COBYS supporters make the kind of care we provide possible. We call it the COBYS Difference.



Scan the code to
see the **2025-26**
Impact Report,

or go to:
cobys.org/newsletter for the link



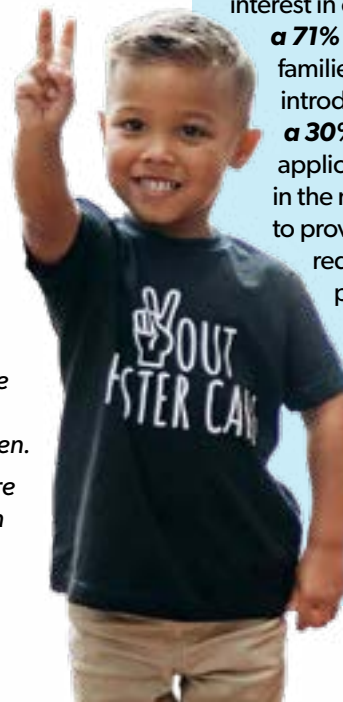
COBYS Coordinated Care In Action

The care of COBYS' staff, our core values and the collaboration of Placement Services, Family Life Education and Counseling are reflected in the recent journey of "A", a 13-year old girl.

The **COBYS Permanency Unit** has been working with "A" and her family for two years. Her care plan goal is adoption. Since her placement in the foster care system, "A" had been living with kinship. When this placement was no longer sustainable, Permanency caseworkers tried to secure an emergency placement, knowing how difficult it can be to find homes for teenagers and that if an in-home placement was not found, the teen could be going to a shelter.

"A" had previously stayed briefly with a COBYS foster mom who provided respite care. The **Resource Home and Foster Care teams** explored the possibility of her going back to this home just for the weekend. The foster mom had worked very closely with a **Family Life Education resource parent trainer** and received **additional coaching from our staff** to ensure she was in the best place possible for a foster child already in her home. With these existing supports, foster mom agreed to have "A" stay for the weekend, but her work schedule would not allow a longer stay. However, on Monday the foster mom called to say the weekend had gone so well that she made arrangements so "A" could stay in her home for the week. A few days later foster mom said she would like to be a long-term home for the teen.

While there are still meetings, decisions and hurdles to address, we are rejoicing in the commitment of love and care for "A" by her foster mom and COBYS.



Fostering Trends

The child welfare system has a critical shortage of foster families. In Pennsylvania, the number of licensed foster homes has decreased by several thousand in the last five years.

COBYS, however, continues to receive interest in our community! **We saw**

a 71% increase in the number of families attending our introductory information session, **a 30% increase** in the number of applications, and a **16% increase** in the number of families licensed to provide foster care. COBYS redesigned our licensure process for faster approval while still offering unparalleled training and support.

These outcomes demonstrate the value of supportive training and guidance in the foster care journey.

Mission Statement

Motivated by Christian faith, COBYS Family Services educates, supports and empowers children and adults to reach their full potential.

Board of Directors

Becky Fuchs, President
Ken Craul, Secretary
Rachel Bucher Keith Fox
Swank Bill Kepner
Doug Denlinger Donna Parcell
Kathy Focht

Administrative Staff

Dr. J. Michael Lausch, Executive Director
Abby Keiser, Program Director (Family Life Education and Counseling)
Anne Stokes, Director of Development & Communications
Celine Schell, Director of Business Operations
Krista Rankin, Program Director (Foster Care, Adoption and Permanency Unit)
Kristin Kuhn & Sophia Mapes, Permanency Unit Supervisors
Amy Wittmaier, Counseling Supervisor
Courtney Beiler, Foster Care Supervisor
Holly Hardin, Family Life Education Supervisor
Jen McDowell, Adoption Supervisor
Bethany Kauffman-Raub, HR Specialist of Records & Benefits
Tim Strawser, HR Specialist of Personnel

Fostering Hope is the quarterly newsletter of COBYS Family Services, a Christian family service agency, affiliated with the Atlantic Northeast District of the Church of the Brethren.



444 Murry Hill Circle
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-656-6580
Fax: 717-656-3056
www.cobys.org

A copy of the official registration and financial information of COBYS Family Services may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. (EIN 23-2128881)

Stronger Together: The Crucial Role of Community in Child Welfare

Every child deserves to grow up surrounded by safety, stability, encouragement, and love. For children and families facing difficult circumstances, those things can make all the difference. No child welfare agency can provide them alone.

It takes a community.

As a Christian child welfare organization, we believe community is more than a network of services or a collection of helpful people. It is an expression of God's call to care for one another, to bear each other's burdens, and to welcome children and families with compassion, dignity and respect.

We Are Called to Care Together

We are part of one body, each with a meaningful role to play. In the same way, child welfare works best when churches, families, community organizations, schools, volunteers, donors, foster and adoptive families, and professionals come together around a shared purpose: the well-being of children.

When we work together, families experience something powerful: they are not alone; they are part of a community.

Community also provides an opportunity to put faith into action.

Jesus consistently demonstrated compassion for people who were vulnerable or overlooked. His example challenges us to not simply care about children and families, but to care for them through tangible acts of love.

For some families, it may be to provide a safe home, but it does not always require a dramatic gesture. Sometimes it looks like providing a meal, offering respite, listening without judgment, donating needed resources or simply showing up consistently to support a foster family.

Everyone Has a Part to Play

Everyone can contribute something to creating stronger families and brighter futures for children. Small acts of faithfulness can have a lasting impact. You can:

- Pray for children, parents, caregivers, and child welfare professionals.
- Encourage a foster or adoptive family in your church or community.
- Volunteer your time, skills, or resources.
- Mentor a child or young adult who needs a trusted relationship.
- Give to programs that support vulnerable children and families.
- Support the workers who dedicate their lives to helping others.
- Learn about the realities facing children and families in your community.

A Shared Mission of Hope

Child welfare is about more than responding to a crisis. It is about creating opportunities for children to experience safety, belonging, healthy relationships, and hope for the future.

That is a mission we can share because when we care together, children and families can thrive.

Blessings,
Mike



Thank you for making our 30th year special

You rode, walked, Tasty Toured
and sundae-ed, and raised
over \$115,000!



We are so grateful to all who participated in and contributed to our 30th annual Bike & Hike event. For the nearly 200 people who attended, the weather cooperated (enough), for us to celebrate the COBYS Difference in care.



Picture above, right: Top 2026 fundraisers Floy Fitzkee (standing second from the right), Londa Brandt, (standing on the right) along with some of the group from Mountville COB



Event Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors

Supporting Sponsors: JB Zimmerman, Keller Bros. Auto, Penway Construction, Sheetz

Fostering Hope 3



COBYS Family Services
444 Murry Hill Circle
Lancaster, PA 17601

Address Service Requested



Become our fan on
Facebook and Instagram

Non-Profit
U.S. Post Office
PAID
Permit No. 52
Lancaster, PA

A Look Inside

Impact Report 2025-26	1
Message from Mike	2
Bike & Hike Wrap-up	3

Support COBYS Nov. 20, during the community-wide day of giving



Set a reminder for the day and make a plan. Choose the best time to give that works for you whether you are an early bird, an end-of-day night owl or you go for special times somewhere in between. We appreciate your donation.

Make Your Gift Count Double. At these times during ExtraGive day, your gift will be matched dollar for dollar by these generous COBYS sponsors:



6:00 - 10:00 a.m. The Cope Company Salt will match gifts up to \$150 for a total of \$3,500.



Grauer's Paint & Decorating will match:
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. gifts up to \$150 and
4:00 - 7:00 p.m. gifts up to \$200 for a total of \$5,000.



7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Fillmore Container will match gifts up to \$150 per donation for a total of \$3,000.



10:00 p.m. - 12:00 mid. Peak Capital will match gifts up to \$200 per donation for a total of \$3,000.



Scan this QR code
on November 20
to donate
to COBYS.

For a complete list of hourly prizes provided by the Lancaster County Community Foundation visit: www.extragive.org/prizes

www.extragive.org/organizations/cobys-family-services